

From glowbugs@theporch.com Fri May 10 22:30:32 1996
Return-Path: glowbugs@theporch.com
Received: from uro (root@localhost.theporch.com [127.0.0.1]) by uro.theporch.com (8.7.5/AUX-3.1.1) with SMTP id WAA04749; Fri, 10 May 1996 22:27:23 -0500 (CDT)
Date: Fri, 10 May 1996 22:27:23 -0500 (CDT)
Message-Id: <199605110327.WAA04749@uro.theporch.com>
Errors-To: ws4s@midtenn.net
Reply-To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Originator: glowbugs@theporch.com
Sender: glowbugs@theporch.com
Precedence: bulk
From: glowbugs@theporch.com
To: Multiple recipients of list <glowbugs@theporch.com>
Subject: GLOWBUGS digest 184
X-Listprocessor-Version: 6.0c -- ListProcessor by Anastasios Kotsikonas
X-Comment: Please send list server requests to listproc@theporch.com
Status: 0

GLOWBUGS Digest 184

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) Re: Flourescent ballast transformers
by Bill Turner <wrt@eskimo.com>
- 2) Re: Flourescent ballast transformers
by Carl Ratner <artdeco@bway.net>
- 3) Need Info on Big Iron
by dringo@MEM.po.com

Date: Thu, 09 May 1996 21:44:27 -0700
From: Bill Turner <wrt@eskimo.com>
To: jefffd@coriolis.com, Multiple recipients of list <glowbugs@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Flourescent ballast transformers
Message-ID: <199605100444.VAA03243@mail.eskimo.com>

At 12:41 PM 5/9/96 -0500, Jeff Duntemann wrote:

>Here's a general question that I'm a little ashamed I can't answer: Are
>flourescent light ballast transformers step-up transformers? Can they
>handle enough current to power a tube transmitter?
>
>The local Home Depot here had them on sale awhile back and it occurred to me
>that I have absolutely no idea what a ballast tranformer is nor what its
>outputs are.
>
>If anyone can comment on this it might be useful; they only cost a few bucks
>new and they're available at any hardware store. This is no longer the case

>with power transformers of any consequence.

>

>--73--

>

>--Jeff Duntemann KG7JF

> Scottsdale Arizona

Yes, they are a step-up transformer, but there's a catch. The primary and secondary are loosely coupled, so as to limit the amount of current the secondary can supply. The nature of a fluorescent lamp is to be a near-open circuit until a certain voltage is reached at which point it lights, and it's resistance then drops to a much lower level. Without the current limiting effect of the transformer, the lamp would self-destruct in short order. So to answer your question, you can get either high voltage or high current from a ballast, but not both at the same time. 'Twas a good thought, though!

73, Bill W7LZP

wrt@eskimo.com

Date: Fri, 10 May 1996 07:20:33 -0400 (EDT)

From: Carl Ratner <artdeco@bway.net>

To: glowbugs@theporch.com

Subject: Re: Fluorescent ballast transformers

Message-ID: <2.2.16.19960510072237.1937e340@bway.net>

At 11:47 PM 5/9/96 -0500, Bill wrote:

>At 12:41 PM 5/9/96 -0500, Jeff Duntemann wrote:

>>Here's a general question that I'm a little ashamed I can't answer: Are

>>fluorescent light ballast transformers step-up transformers? Can they

>>handle enough current to power a tube transmitter?

>>

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>>that I have absolutely no idea what a ballast transformer is nor what its

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>order. So to answer your question, you can get either high voltage
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>current from a ballast, but not both at the same time. 'Twas a good
>thought, though!
>
>73, Bill W7LZP
>wrt@eskimo.com

Once had to repair a fluorescent fixture, and the ballast had only two wires coming out of it. That would suggest that this particular ballast was an inductor rather than a transformer. Most likely it worked in conjunction with the lamp starter to provide an inductive "kick" that helped ionize the lamp and get it going. (The starter lights the lamp's filaments briefly, then cuts out when the lamp fires up). If this type of ballast is indeed an inductor, I wonder whether it might make a useful filter choke.

The transformer ballasts that Bill described may be designed for the newer fluorescent fixtures that don't have starters. Those are a considerable improvement over the older ones, as the starters failed fairly often.

BTW, there are few things that smell worse than a ballast gone bad. We had one burn up in our garage, and the pungent aroma lingered for many days.

73

-- Carl Ratner
artdeco@bway.net

Date: Fri, 10 May 1996 21:47:40 -0400
From: dringo@MEM.po.com
To: glowbugs@theporch.com

Subject: Need Info on Big Iron

Message-ID: <9605110147.AA27899@mercury>

I've been collecting pieces for my someday-to-be-built AM tube rig. I'm looking for power supply components, and I've rescued the following items from oblivion at the local swap meet:

Thordarson choke T-19C43

Stancor transformer P-8041

Could someone in the group who has old catalogs look these up for me and give me the basic specs?

Thanks,

David N6UVF /dringo@mem.po.com

End of GLOWBUGS Digest 184
